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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,873	01/21/2004	Nicholas M. Valiante	PP20203.003	5927

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EXAMINER

CHONG, YONG SOO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1617

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/762,873	Applicant(s) VALIANTE, NICHOLAS M.	
	Examiner Yong S. Chong	Art Unit 1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-11, 18 and 20-31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17, 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Application

This Office Action is in response to applicant's arguments filed on 1/12/2006. Claims 1-11, 18, 20-31 have been withdrawn. Claim 15 has been amended. Claims 1-31 are pending. Claims 12-17, 19 are examined herein. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but found not persuasive. All rejections are maintained for reasons of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham vs John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 12-17, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Baker et al. (US Patent 5,441,955).

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The instant claims are directed to a composition comprising a tryptanthrin compound (No. 1001) and an antigen.

Baker et al. teach the tryptanthrin compound of No. 1001 in the applicant's specification (col. 20, lines 22-33) as part of an antimicrobial composition (abstract). Furthermore, this tryptanthrin compound can be administered with an adjuvant (col. 12, lines 37-42). What's more, Baker et al. teach that tryptanthrin can be administered in combination with one or more other agents used in the treatment of pathogenic mycobacterial infections. Representative agents used for the treatment of mycobacterial tuberculosis include, for example, isoniazid, rifampin, pyrazinamide, ethambutol, rifabutin, streptomycin, and ciproflaxin (col. 13, lines 35-43). Examiner would like to point out that mycobacterial tuberculosis is a common cause of bacterial meningitis (meningococcus infection). Moreover, Bacillus of Calmette and Guérin (BCG) is a vaccine against tuberculosis caused by mycobacterial tuberculosis.

Baker et al., however fails to disclose a specific combination of the tryptanthrin compound (No. 1001) and an adjuvant.

It would have been prima facie obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed invention was made, to combine the tryptanthrin compound (No. 1001) with an adjuvant.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make this combination because of the increased antigenic response of the tryptanthrin compound resulting from the adjuvant, which is defined as the agents that are used for the treatment of mycobacterial tuberculosis.

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues that the rejection does not meet all of the claim limitations because a composition comprising a tryptanthrin compound and an antigen is not disclosed.

Examiner respectfully argues that Baker et al. does indeed meet all of the claim limitations. Applicant has specified the antigens in claim 14, specifically meningococcus infection and BCG. Baker et al. teach that the tryptanthrin compound can be administered with an adjuvant, such as an agent used in the treatment of pathogenic mycobacterial infections. Representative agents used for the treatment of mycobacterial tuberculosis include, for example, isoniazid, rifampin, pyrazinamide, ethambutol, rifabutin, streptomycin, and ciproflaxin (col. 13, lines 35-43). Examiner would like to point out that mycobacterial tuberculosis is a common cause of bacterial meningitis (meningococcus infection). Moreover, Bacillus of Calmette and Guérin (BCG) is a vaccine against tuberculosis caused by mycobacterial tuberculosis.

In response to the limitation imposed on claim 15 by amendment, the enhancement of the immune response to the antigen by the tryptanthrin compound is inherent since a compound and its properties are inseparable.

"Products of identical chemical composition can not have mutual exclusive properties." Any properties exhibited by or benefits from are not given any patentable weight over the prior art provided the composition is inherent. A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. Therefore, if the prior art teaches the identical chemical structure, the disclosed properties are necessarily present. *In re Spada*, 911

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F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990). See MPEP 2112.01. The burden is shifted to the applicant to show that the prior art product does not inherently possess the same properties as the instantly claimed product.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong S. Chong whose telephone number is (571)-272-8513. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, SREENI PADMANABHAN can be reached on (571)-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YSC

SHENGJUNWANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER